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STATED MEETING, JUNE 22, 1841.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Address delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History, May 5, 1841, by J. C. Teschemacher.
—From the Society.

Flora of North America, arranged according to the Natural System. By John Torrey and Asa Gray. 8vo. New York 1841.

Third Annual Report of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh. Session 1838–39. Edinburgh, 1841.—From the Society.

DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

Pleurotoma Australis, *Solarium Lævigatum*, *Cyclostoma* —, and *Trochus obeliscus*.—From Capt. Land.

Monoceros lugubris.—From Mrs. Preston.

Fissurella —, *Patella*, two species, *Tellina* —, *Sanguinolaria* —, *Scutella digitata*, *S. dentata*, from Liberia.—Presented by Dr. Blanding. The same gentleman also presented two specimens of *Jerbillus canadensis*, a *Mus* and a *Sorex* from Indiana.

Fossil crab, (*Cancer*, Lin.) in indurated sand, from the lower beds of the Cretaceous formation of New Jersey. Found at Little Egg Harbour, and presented by Mr. Edward Needles.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS.—The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Wm. C. Redfield, Esq., acknowledging the receipt of a letter announcing his election as a corresponding member. A letter of similar import was also read from Dr. J. P. Durbin, of Dickinson college.

VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS.—Dr. B. H. Coates stated, that out of about 20 stalks of bearded wheat, which he had recently examined in Moyamensing, and which were selected as not having been able to develop their seeds, the greater part presenting the appearance called smut, he found all but two to have the aspect of having been stung by insects, in the first or second joint, generally the first. In all but four, the resemblance of a sting appeared to penetrate the cavity of the straw, and the inside had the appearance of having been eroded, with a perforation extending to the outside. Opposite to two of these, on the outside, and under the sheaths of the first and second joints, he found puparia, resembling those of the familiar *Cecidomyia* of Say. One of these was empty; and the separation of the leaf sheath from the stalk, with a black streak, pointed out a route by which the animal could have escaped. These cases last enumerated corresponded with the verbal communications of Miss M. A. Morris.

On the outside of another basal stipule of wheat, he found two quiescent animal bodies, whitish, with dark spots, having much of the general appearance of what is considered by Mr. Say, the larva of the *Cecidomyia*. One of them in 24 hours became of a pale brown and shrivelled; and in two days more developed a dipterous fly, which farmers said they should have classed among the common destroyers of the wheat, and which was exactly of the size of Say's figure, measuring 3-20ths of an inch in length; but was of a paler colour, and had setaceous antennæ. Its general aspect resembled that of a tipulide fly. After a partial inspection by a gentleman who had bestowed much labour on Entomology, the impression was received that it did not belong to the genus *Cecidomyia*; and the specimen is kept for accurate examination.

Professor Johnson drew the attention of the society to the atmospheric phenomena attendant on extensive conflagration; and stated on the authority of Dr. H. King of Washington

city, that the burning of the prairies in Wisconsin and Missouri, is frequently, and almost immediately followed by rain. This observation had been confirmed to Dr. King by other observers; and in the western country it had become a popular impression that a prairie-fire was the forerunner of rain.

Dr. Coates had met with a statement in Nichols's History of Leicestershire, which bore on the same question; viz. that in the reign of one of the Stuarts, orders were sent to a sheriff of Staffordshire to discontinue the burning of Ferns during a Royal progress, because the operation was usually followed by rain.

Mr. Phillips adverted to the memorable hail-storm which occurred immediately after the last great fire at Constantinople; the fact being fully authenticated by Mr. Walsh and Commodore Porter. That rain is common in South America after the burning of the Pampas, is familiar to meteorologists; and the attention of the members is especially solicited to this inquiry, in order that a more extended series of facts may be collected and compared.

MEETING OF BUSINESS, JUNE 29, 1841.

VICE PRESIDENT WETHERILL in the Chair.

REPORTS.

The Corresponding Secretary read his report for the last month, which was adopted.

The Botanical Committee made the following report, which was ordered to be printed in the Society's proceedings.